

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving a search request containing search criteria
 - 3 from a first user, the search criteria including at least
 - 4 one search category;
 - 5 determining filter search specification associated
 - 6 with the at least one search category, the filter search
 - 7 specification being used to specify a particular type of
 - 8 records to be selected for the search request; and
 - 9 performing a search based upon the filter search
 - 10 specification and the search criteria to identify records
 - 11 that match filter search specification and the search
 - 12 criteria.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein performing the search
 - 2 includes:
 - 3 constructing a search query based on the search
 - 4 criteria and the filter search specification; and
 - 5 executing the search query to select records that
 - 6 match the search criteria and the filter search
 - 7 specification.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further including:
 - 2 generating search results based on the records
 - 3 selected; and
 - 4 displaying the search results to the first user.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further including:

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2 determining the first user's organizational
3 identifier, the first user's organizational identifier
4 being used to specify a corresponding organization to
5 which the first user belongs.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein performing the search
2 includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the first user's
4 organizational identifier, the filter search
5 specification, and the search criteria; and
6 executing the search query to select records that
7 match the first user's organizational identifier, the
8 filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further including:
2 determining a list of categories to which the first
3 user is authorized to access.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein performing the search
2 includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the list of
4 categories to which the first user is authorized to
5 access, the filter search specification, and the search
6 criteria; and
7 executing the search query to select records that
8 match the list of categories, the filter search
9 specification, and the search criteria.

1 8 A system comprising:

2 logic to receive a search request containing search
3 criteria from a first user, the search criteria including
4 at least one search category;

5 logic to determine filter search specification
6 associated with the at least one search category, the
7 filter search specification being used to specify a
8 particular type of records to be selected for the search
9 request; and

10 logic to perform a search based upon the filter
11 search specification and the search criteria to identify
12 records that match filter search specification and the
13 search criteria.

1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein logic to perform the
2 search includes:

3 logic to construct a search query based on the search
4 criteria and the filter search specification; and

5 logic to execute the search query to select records
6 that match the search criteria and the filter search
7 specification.

1 10. The system of claim 8 further including:

2 logic to determine the first user's organizational
3 identifier, the first user's organizational identifier
4 being used to specify a corresponding organization to
5 which the first user belongs.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the logic to perform
2 the search includes:

3 logic to construct a search query based on the first
4 user's organizational identifier, the filter search
5 specification, and the search criteria; and
6 logic to execute the search query to select records
7 that match the first user's organizational identifier, the
8 filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1 12. The system of claim 8 further including:

2 logic to determine a list of categories to which the
3 first user is authorized to access.

1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein logic to perform the
2 search includes:

3 logic to construct a search query based on the list
4 of categories to which the first user is authorized to
5 access, the filter search specification, and the search
6 criteria; and

7 logic to execute the search query to select records
8 that match the list of categories, the filter search
9 specification, and the search criteria.

1 14. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions
2 which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
3 perform operations including:

4 receiving a search request containing search criteria
5 from a first user, the search criteria including at least
6 one search category;

7 determining filter search specification associated
8 with the at least one search category, the filter search

1 18. The machine-readable medium of claim 14 further
2 including:

3 determining a list of categories to which the first
4 user is authorized to access.

1 19. The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein
2 performing the search includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the list of
4 categories to which the first user is authorized to
5 access, the filter search specification, and the search
6 criteria; and

7 executing the search query to select records that
8 match the list of categories, the filter search
9 specification, and the search criteria.

1 20. A method comprising:

2 receiving a search request containing search criteria
3 from a first user, the search criteria including at least
4 one search category;

5 determining filter search specification associated
6 with the at least one search category;

7 determining the first user's organizational
8 identifier, the first user's organizational identifier
9 being used to specify a corresponding organization to
10 which the first user belongs; and

11 performing a search based upon the first user's
12 organizational identifier, the filter search
13 specification, and the search criteria to identify records

14 that match the first user's organizational identifier, the
15 filter search specification and the search criteria.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein performing the search
2 includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the first user's
4 organizational identifier, the filter search
5 specification, and the search criteria; and

6 executing the search query to select records that
7 match the first user's organizational identifier, the
8 filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1 22. A method comprising:

2 receiving a search request containing search criteria
3 from a first user, the search criteria including at least
4 one search category;

5 determining filter search specification associated
6 with the at least one search category;

7 determining a list of categories to which the first
8 user is authorized to access; and

9 performing a search based upon the list of categories
10 the first user is authorized to access, the filter search
11 specification, and the search criteria to identify records
12 that match the list of categories, the filter search
13 specification and the search criteria.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein performing the search
2 includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the list of
4 categories to which the first user is authorized to

5 access, the filter search specification, and the search
6 criteria; and

7 executing the search query to select records that
8 match the list of categories, the filter search
9 specification, and the search criteria.

1 24. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions
2 which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
3 perform operations including:

4 receiving a search request containing search criteria
5 from a first user, the search criteria including at least
6 one search category;

7 determining filter search specification associated
8 with the at least one search category;

9 determining the first user's organizational
10 identifier, the first user's organizational identifier
11 being used to specify a corresponding organization to
12 which the first user belongs; and

13 performing a search based upon the first user's
14 organizational identifier, the filter search
15 specification, and the search criteria to identify records
16 that match the first user's organizational identifier, the
17 filter search specification and the search criteria.

1 25. The machine-readable medium of claim 25 wherein
2 performing the search includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the first user's
4 organizational identifier, the filter search
5 specification, and the search criteria; and

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6 executing the search query to select records that
7 match the first user's organizational identifier, the
8 filter search specification, and the search criteria.

1 26. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions
2 which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
3 perform operations including:

4 receiving a search request containing search criteria
5 from a first user, the search criteria including at least
6 one search category;

7 determining filter search specification associated
8 with the at least one search category;

9 determining a list of categories to which the first
10 user is authorized to access; and

11 performing a search based upon the list of categories
12 the first user is authorized to access, the filter search
13 specification, and the search criteria to identify records
14 that match the list of categories, the filter search
15 specification and the search criteria.

1 27. The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein
2 performing the search includes:

3 constructing a search query based on the list of
4 categories to which the first user is authorized to
5 access, the filter search specification, and the search
6 criteria; and

7 executing the search query to select records that
8 match the list of categories, the filter search
9 specification, and the search criteria.